

Frostline



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SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1972

Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Dick:

Since my last letter, I have celebrated my first anniversary as Secretary of the Army. I have a good feeling about the past year. Even though there are many problems which remain to be solved, the Army is moving--and in the right direction.

During the year I have had an opportunity to meet and get to know most of the general officers and many of the supergrades in the Army. I like what I have seen.

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Last month Creighton Abrams was sworn in as the new Chief of Staff. The delay in his confirmation was unfortunate, but it was beyond our control. The good news is that he is now in the chair, and that bodes well for the Army.

Soon Al Haig will replace Bruce Palmer as Vice Chief of Staff. Abe and Al should be looked upon as a team--and they are going to prove to be an outstanding one. Without exception, all who know these men agree that they are long on integrity, intelligence, and industry. That is why I am so excited about this new team.

A comment about Bruce Palmer is in order. He has led the Army during the difficult period between Westy's retirement and Abe's confirmation and without a Vice Chief to backstop him. He has performed brilliantly. Everyone in the Army should be both proud and appreciative of the job that Bruce has done. I can assure you that I am.

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In the not too distant future, Abe and I will be announcing a rather significant reorganization of the Army. We believe this is necessary in order to improve readiness, make the Army more responsive to the

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needs of the Nation, and provide for more responsibility at the installation level. Some economies will also be effected, but this is not the primary reason for the reorganization.

Unfortunately, all reorganizations disrupt people and families. We are very much aware of this and we are making every effort to minimize the inconvenience. I can assure you that wherever possible, the convenience of families will be uppermost in our minds.

Once the details of the reorganization are announced, I urge you to become intimately familiar with the reasons for it and the details of it. We must be sure that our people understand why it is necessary and, specifically, what is to be accomplished.

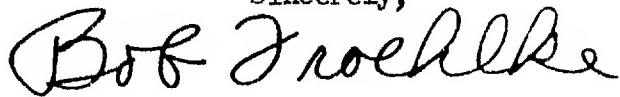
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As we look toward 1973, the new Congress looms high on the horizon. At this time I see our major concerns to be:

1. Insuring continuation of our people-oriented budget.
2. Selling an appreciation of the importance of conventional military strength during this period of nuclear parity.
3. Obtaining and strengthening support for our "big five" weapon systems (Main Battle Tank, Advanced Attack Helicopter, Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle, Surface to Air Missile-Development, and Utility Tactical Transport).

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Sincerely,



Robert F. Froehlke